13th August 1929]

Installation of a paper and pulp plant at Papanasam.

*380 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether any and if so, what decision has been arrived at about the installation of a paper and pulp plant to utilize the reed in Papanasam?

A.—The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Instead of saying as usual that the matter is under the consideration of Government, at least with regard to this matter, I hope the hon. Member may be a little . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think I shall be justified in permitting the hon. Member to make a speech. This occasion is intended only for putting supplementary questions."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member when this is likely to be disposed of?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"As I said before, as early as possible; I am not in a position to state more definitely than that."

Grievances of Forest Rangers in the Presidency.

*381 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether forest rangers in the Presidency submitted to Government in 1927 and in 1929 and foresters in April 1929 memorials setting forth their grievances, especially on the score of the stagnation in their services and requesting early redress of their grievances;

(b) why the subordinate forest service is not given time-scale of pay;

(c) whether foresters in the Logging Engineering Division are subjected to special hardships; and, if so, what allowance is granted to them;

(d) what other grievances in the subordinate forest services have come to the notice of Government; and

(e) what action Government have taken to redress them?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Please see answer to clauses (c) and (d). The question is under consideration.

(c) In view of the fact that the work of these foresters is responsible and entails additional expense, a class I allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem is sanctioned to them. The foresters are also eligible for a class IV allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem when their work lies in unhealthy localities.

(d) & (e) The officers in the subordinate forest services, rangers, foresters and forest guards have recently memorialized Government that a time-scale of pay should be sanctioned to them instead of the present graded pay. The rangers ask also for an increase in the leave reserve to 25 per cent. The foresters also request that 75 per cent of the selection of candidates for deputation to the Forest College should be reserved for them. These questions are now under consideration.